# Seirei no Moribito

by Uehashi Nahoko, Futatsugi Saki, & Fujiwara Kamui

Chapter 6


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滴汎瀕乳殆刃悪肌腐

藤原カムイ

早いもので、もう2巻です。原作だと、中盤に当たります。まずアニメありきということでスタートしているので、極力アニメの設定を生かしつつの作業となっています。当然ながら、全部を賄う事は、分量的に不可能なので、結果良いとこ取りになってしまっています。アニメは、緻密で求婚らしい世界観を提示していて好きなのですが、僕自身のイメージした風景とは、若干異なります。初期設定から僕自身のオリジナル設定でやってみたかった作品なので、せめても、漫画のキャラは多少オリジナルをおえつつ、原作の雰囲気のイメージに引き戻したりしてます。然し乍ら作品とは、制約されることで昇華する的もありますので、この作品もそのように完成されていけば本望なのです。

# 精霊の守り人

SEIREI NO MORIBITO

藤原カムイ

原作：上橋菜穂子

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藤原カムイ

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GANGAN COMICS

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GC 精霊の守り人 二

9784757522190

ISBN978-4-7575-2219-0

C9979 ¥390E

1929979003906

雑誌48119-03

定価：本体390円 ＋税

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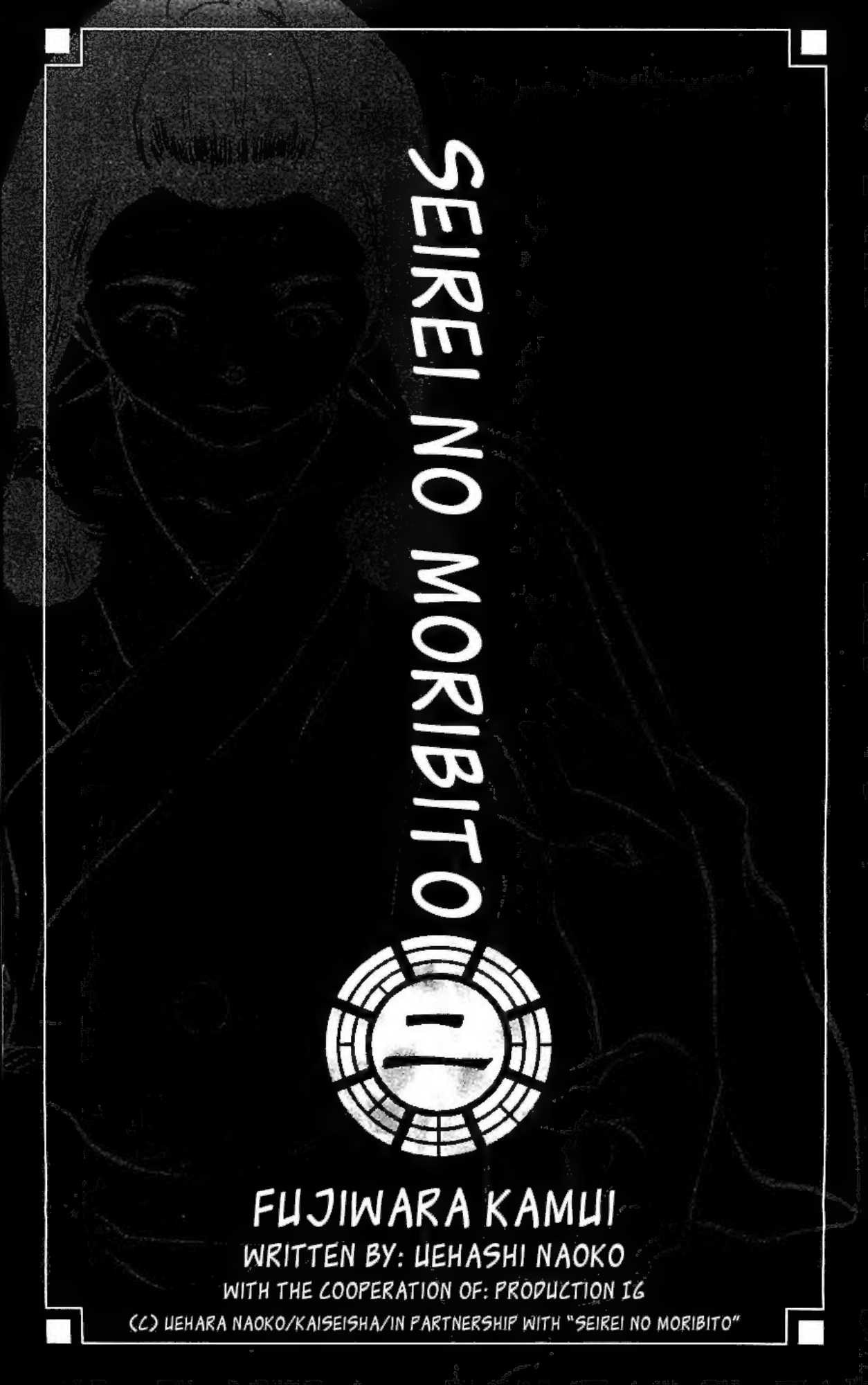


FUJIWARA KAMUI

WRITTEN BY: UEHASHI NAOKO

WITH THE COOPERATION OF: PRODUCTION IG

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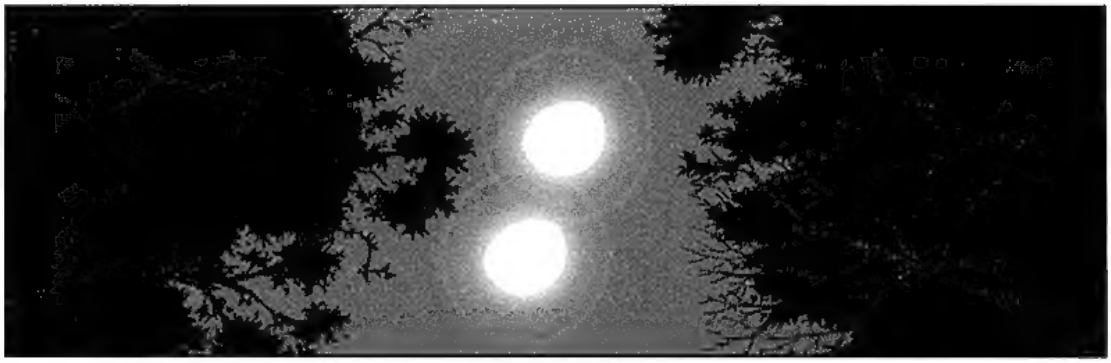
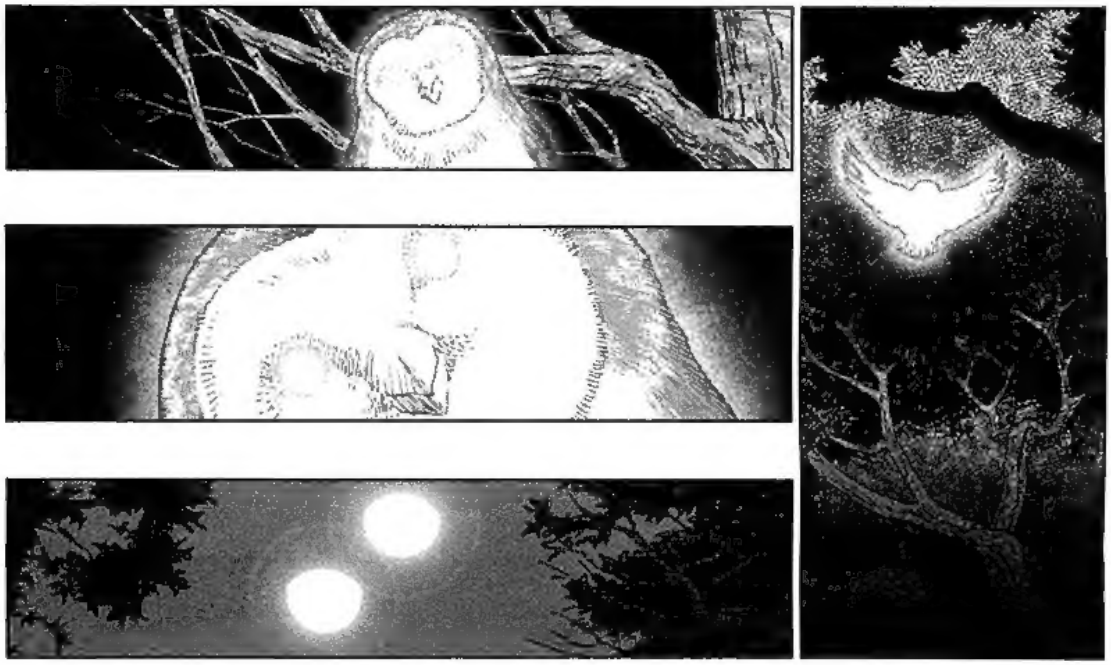


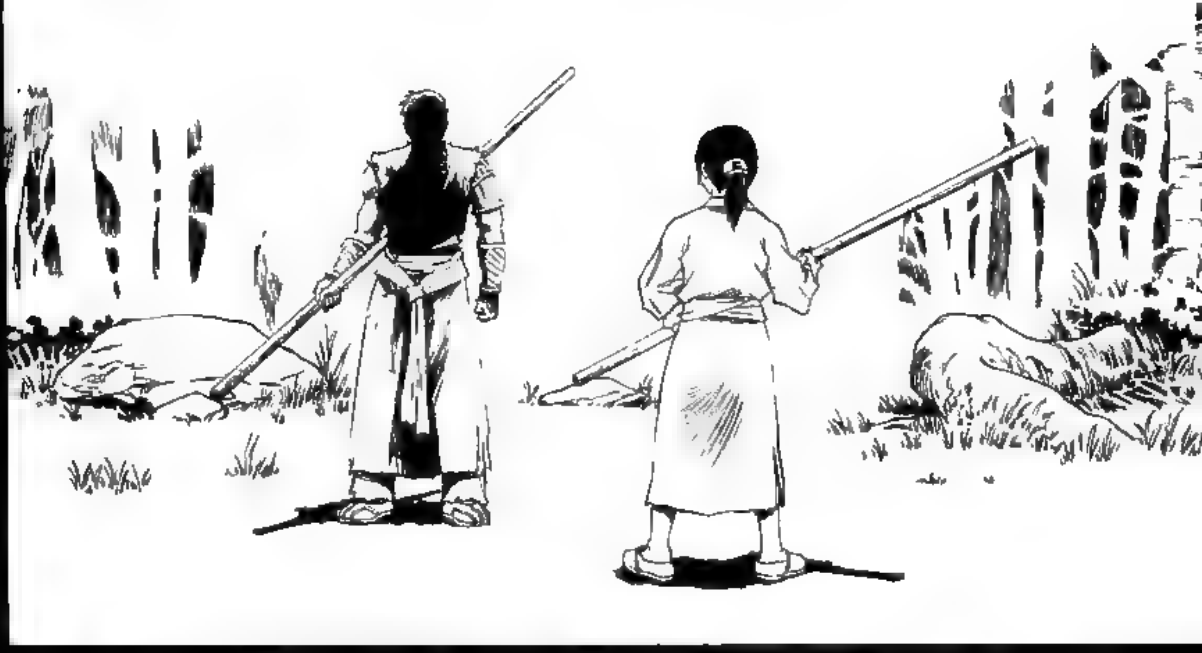
# CHAPTER 6 THE WATER GUARDIAN



FLY...
FLY...
NAJI...

JIGURO...

TANDA...



ARE YOU AWAKE?

TANDA...

YOU WERE BADLY INJURED... WHICH IS WHY YOUR MEMORIES ARE GETTING MIXED UP...
.....
DID I LOSE TO JIGURO AGAIN?
.....
JIGURO HASN'T BEEN WITH US FOR A VERY LONG TIME. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

NOW DRINK SOME WATER...
THAT'S RIGHT... JIGURO IS DEAD...
AH...
...CHA... GUM?

THIS IS TERRIBLE! HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN OUT?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S ONLY BEEN A DAY...

IT'S GOING TO BE FINE. HE TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED.
THIS KID IS PRETTY TOUGH AND RESOURCEFUL! I WAS SO SURPRISED WHEN HE STUMBLED BY THE HUT LAST NIGHT, FULL OF SCRATCHES...

HE TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED FROM THE BEGINNING, ABOUT YOU BEING PURSUED. I CLEANED UP ALL THE BLOOD TRAILS TO MAKE SURE THEY CAN'T FOLLOW YOU HERE.
I SEE. THANK YOU...

BAL-
SA...
I'M JUST GLAD YOU ARE SAFE.

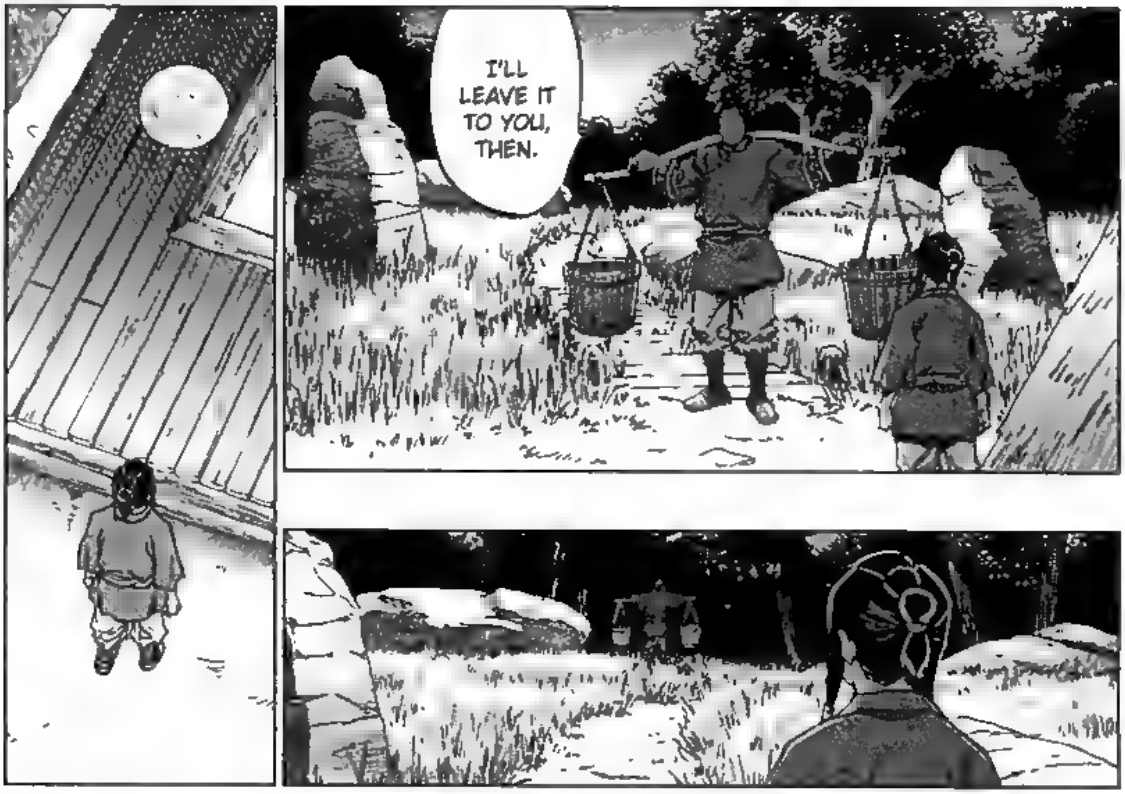
!
YOU DID WELL, CHAGUM. YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT HELP...

NOW THAT I KNOW WE'RE OKAY... I'M GETTING SLEEPY.

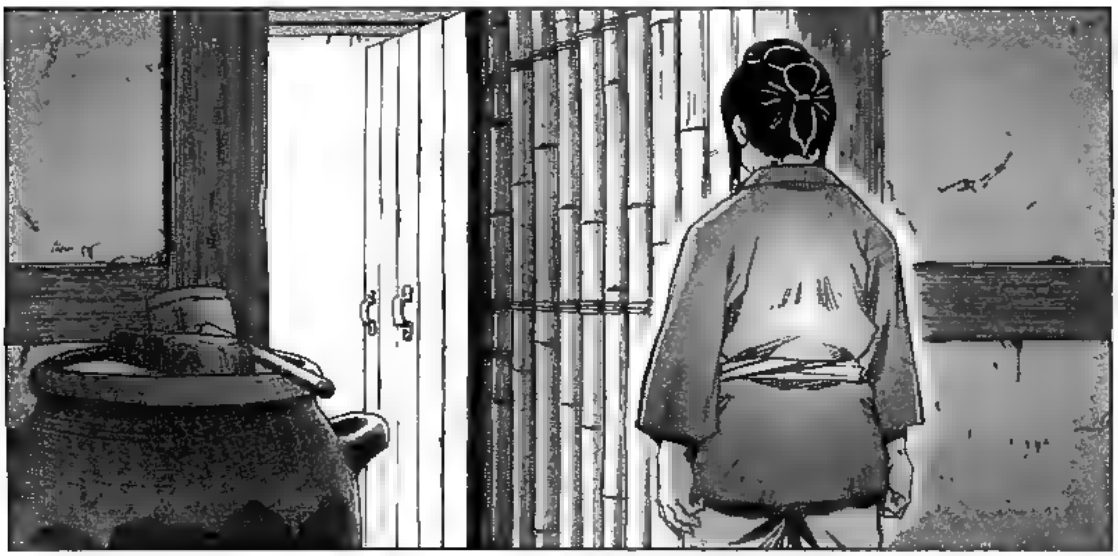
THAT'S TRUE...
THE PERSON WHO SHOULD BE THE PRO-TECTOR WAS THE ONE BEING PROTECTED.

THEN I'M GOING TO PREPARE DINNER. I'LL WAKE YOU UP WHEN IT'S READY.
UFF

CHAGUM... SORRY FOR HEAPING THIS ON YOU, BUT COULD YOU LOOK AFTER BALSA WHILE I GO FETCH SOME WATER?
I USED IT ALL FOR THE MEDICAL TREATMENT.
WE'RE OUT OF WATER...
DRAT...
WELL ..
NOTHING IN PARTICULAR... JUST WATCH OVER HER.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
OKAY.
IF SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S IN PAIN, JUST SOAK THE TOWEL IN THE BUCKET AND PUT IT ON HER FOREHEAD.


I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU, THEN.

SIGH



!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, CHAGUM?
HEY... CHAGUM...
!
UWAAAH!!!

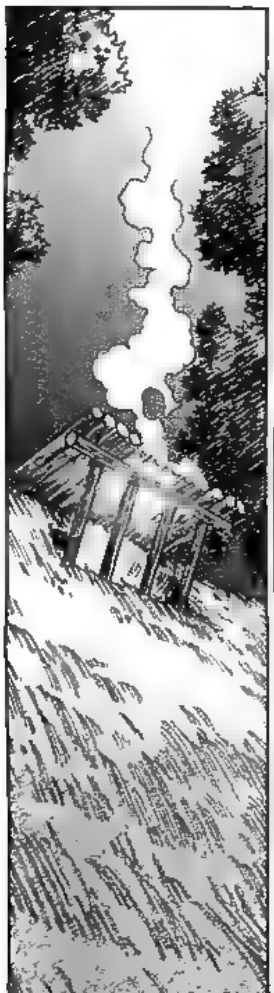
HEY!!
CHAGUM!!
WAKE UP!!
WHA...
WHAT IS
THIS...
!
IS.THIS
NAYUG?!
IT CAN'T BE...
NAYUG...?!

NO!!
IF HE DOESN'T
SNAP OUT OF IT,
HE'S GOING TO
GET PULLED IN!

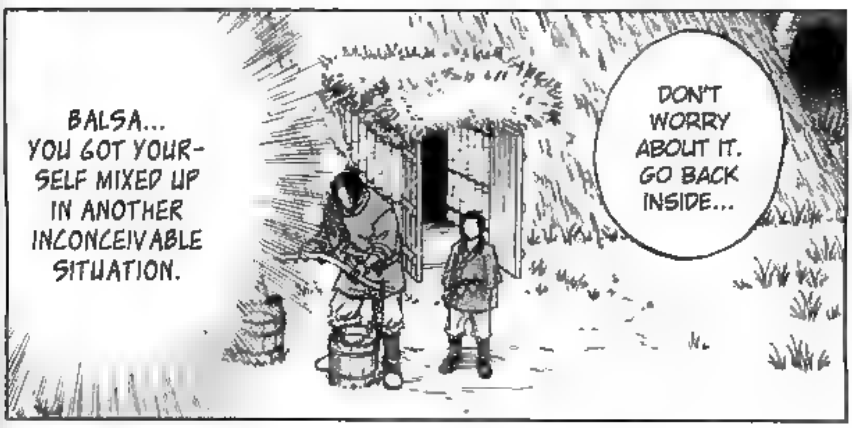
WHOOSH

YOU'RE BACK... THANK GOODNESS.
TANDA... SAN.

WHAT...? YOU CAN'T REMEMBER?
WHY AM I HERE?

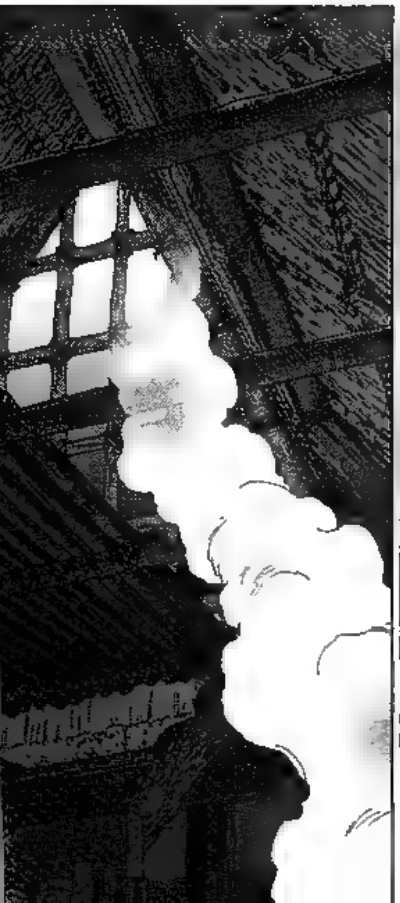


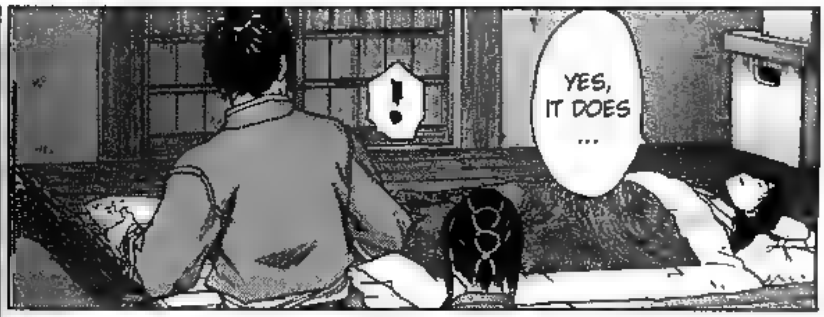
THIS IS MORE TROUBLING THAN I THOUGHT...

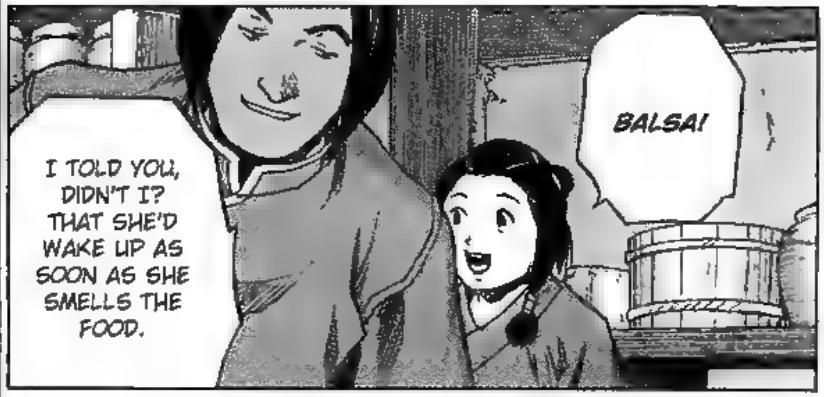

BALSA... YOU GOT YOURSELF MIXED UP IN ANOTHER INCONCEIVABLE SITUATION.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. GO BACK INSIDE...

WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S A KIND OF MUSHROOM CALLED KANKUI. IT ADDS FLAVOR TO THE DISH...
IT BECOMES BITTER WHEN OVERCOOKED, SO THE TRICK IS TO WEAKEN THE FIRE AND PUT THESE IN DIRECTLY...

IT SMELLS GOOD.




!
YES, IT DOES ...


BALSA!
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I? THAT SHE'D WAKE UP AS SOON AS SHE SMELLS THE FOOD.

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OUR FOOD IS FRESHLY MADE?
IT'S STRANGE... IT SEEMS LIKE COMMONER FOOD IS MUCH MORE DELICIOUS THAN THE FOOD IN THE PALACE...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE IN A PALACE... BUT I WOULD ASSUME FOOD WOULD ALWAYS HAVE TO BE CHECKED FOR POISON AND SUCH BEFORE IT GETS SERVED, SO IT WOULD GET COLD.
THAT'S RIGHT! I REALLY HAVEN'T TASTED FRESHLY-MADE FOOD BEFORE!

BALSA... IT'S THE NYUNGA RO IM!
WAIT... I THINK I GET IT NOW...

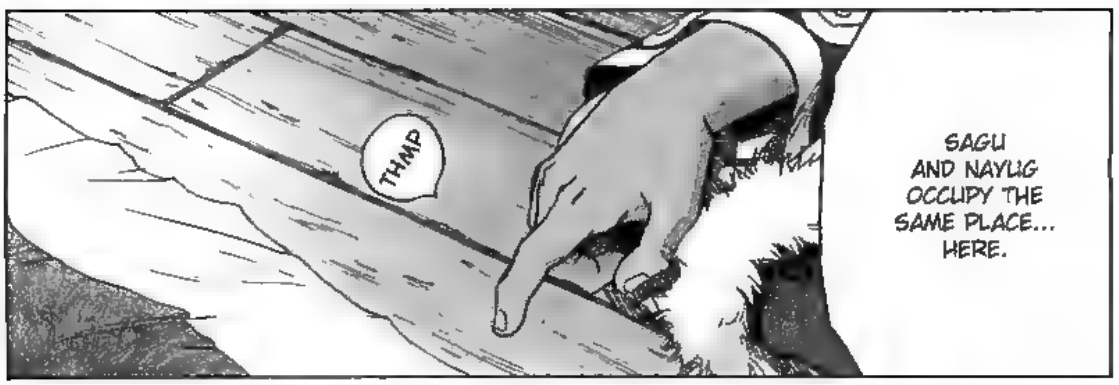
THE THING LIVING INSIDE HIM... IT'S THE NYUNGA RO IM. THE YAKU TERM FOR THE WATER GUARDIAN.
WHAT...?

I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT EITHER... BUT YOU'VE HEARD OF IT, HAVEN'T YOU? THE LEGEND OF HOW THE WATER SPIRIT WAS VANQUISHED...

WATER GUARDIAN... SOMETHING LIKE THE RIVER'S SPIRIT?

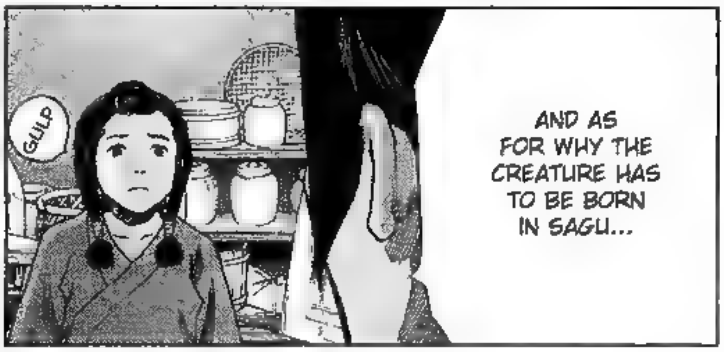
COULD IT BE...? THE WATER SPIRIT?
YES... BY EMPEROR TORGAL...

IT'S VERY LIKELY.
THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF YAKU— CAN SEE A WHOLE DIFFERENT WORLD THAT NO ONE ELSE CAN SEE. THE LAND OF NAYUG.
THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW YOGO EMPIRE DIDN'T BELIEVE IT.


THMP
SAGU AND NAYUG OCCUPY THE SAME PLACE... HERE.

I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS ABOUT IT, BUT THERE IS ONE THING I DO KNOW...
THE IMPORTANT PART OF THIS IS THAT SAGU AND NAYUG DEPEND ON EACH OTHER.

100 YEARS AGO, THIS CREATURE WAS BORN FROM AN EGG. IN THE YEARS AFTER THE EGG APPEARED, THERE CAME A MASSIVE DROUGHT.
THERE IS A CREATURE FROM NAYUG THAT HAS THE POWER TO AFFECT THE WEATHER OF BOTH SAGU AND NAYUG.


GULP
AND AS FOR WHY THE CREATURE HAS TO BE BORN IN SAGU...

IT IS BECAUSE IT IS ALSO THE NYUNGA RO IM. THE WATER GUARDIAN.

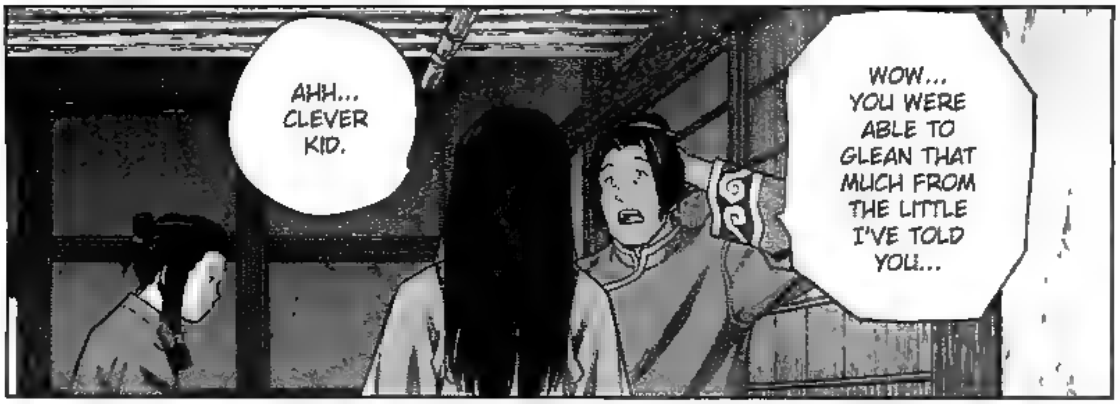
IT IS BELIEVED THAT IF THE EGG DOES NOT SAFELY HATCH DURING THE FULL MOON IN THE SUMMER SOLSTICE, THE DROUGHT WILL GO ON UNTIL IT CAUSES A MASSIVE CRISIS.

THEN WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THAT CHAGUM WILL BIRTH THIS NYUNGA RO IM?

I'M SORRY FOR RUINING YOUR DINNER. I KNOW IT CAN'T HAVE BEEN EASY TO HEAR...

!

*T/L Note: The Nyunga Ro Chaga is the Yaku term "Seirei no Moribito" (Guardian of the Spirit).


AHH... CLEVER KID.
WOW... YOU WERE ABLE TO GLEAN THAT MUCH FROM THE LITTLE I'VE TOLD YOU...

OBVIOUSLY, THERE ARE PARTS OF EMPEROR TORGAL'S LEGEND THAT ARE TRUE.
BUT I KNOW THAT THERE ARE ALSO PARTS THAT ARE COMPLETE FABRICATIONS.

CHAGUM... I DON'T WANT TO LIE TO YOU, AND YOU ARE NEARLY AN ADULT, SO I'LL BE STRAIGHT WITH YOU...

.....

SO WHY DO YOU BELIEVE THE STORY OF THE YAKU, BUT NOT OF THE EMPEROR?

!

I KNOW THAT HE HAS A DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF THESE THINGS... THAT HE IS VERY CAREFUL IN GIV-ING OUT THE RIGHT INFORMATION.
TWO REASONS. FIRST IS, I KNOW TANDA WELL.

SECOND IS, BETWEEN LEGENDS TOLD BY THE POWERFUL AND THE WEAK, I KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE TO LEAN TOWARDS THE LEGENDS TOLD BY THOSE WHO ARE WEAK.

BECAUSE IT IS A SOURCE OF THEIR PRIDE AS A PEOPLE...
I DISAGREE, BALSA. YOU MAY BE RIGHT, BUT I THINK THAT THE PERSECUTED ALSO HAVE A TENDENCY TO OVERSELL THEIR LEGENDS...

EMPEROR TORGAL SPREAD THE STORY EVEN BEFORE HE SET FOOT IN THIS LAND...
...BECAUSE IT WAS THE KIND OF LEGEND THAT COULD GET THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW YOGO EMPIRE TO YOUR SIDE.
IT'S JUST THAT... THIS PARTICULAR LEGEND IS NOT ONE OF THOSE.
AND ONE MORE THING...
WHEN I WAS YOUNG, MY YAKU GRANDMOTHER TOLD ME A FRIGHTENING STORY THAT HER OWN GRANDFATHER TOLD HER. AS THE STORY GOES...
YOU CAN PROBABLY TELL FROM MY COM-PLEXION... BUT I AM A DESCENDANT OF THE YAKU.

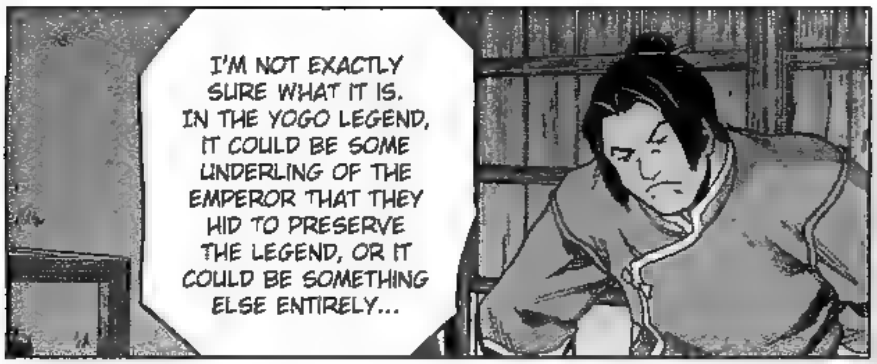
IT HAPPENED 200 YEARS AGO, 100 YEARS AFTER YOUR ANCESTOR, EMPEROR TORGAL, ELIMINATED THE WATER SPIRIT.

THE EGG APPEARED INSIDE THE SON OF MY GRANDFATHER'S FRIEND.

WHY DID HE DIE?

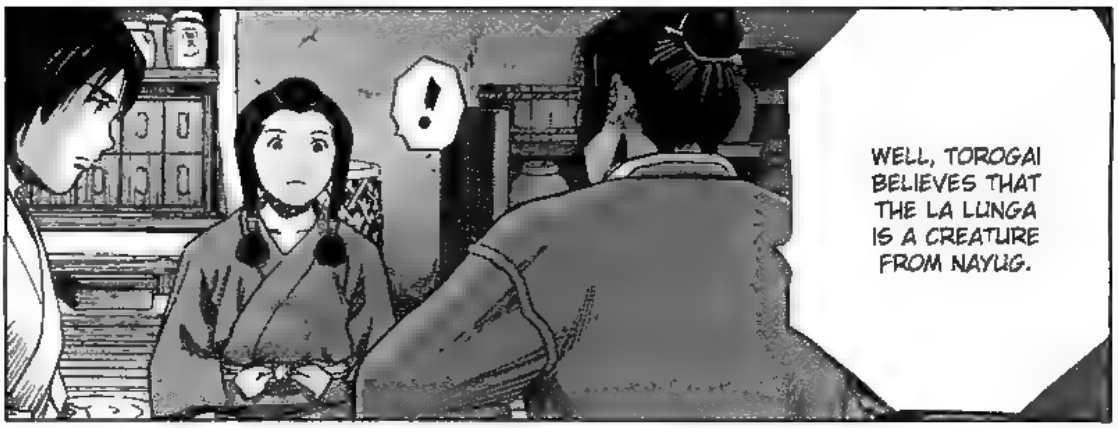
MY GRANDFATHER'S FRIEND WAS YAKU, AND HIS WIFE WAS FROM YOGO, SO THEIR CHILD WAS HALF-BLOOD. THEY BROUGHT THEIR SON TO THE FOREST AND PROTECTED HIM FIERCELY. EVEN SO... THE CHILD DIED.

WELL, MY GRAND-MOTHER'S MEMORY IS SKETCHY...
BUT SHE BELIEVES IT WAS BECAUSE THE EGG WAS CONSUMED BY LA LUNGA— THE EGG EATER.


I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT IT IS. IN THE YOGO LEGEND, IT COULD BE SOME UNDERLING OF THE EMPEROR THAT THEY HID TO PRESERVE THE LEGEND, OR IT COULD BE SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY...

LA LUNGA ...?!

IF WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, WE CAN'T SUBDUE IT.
SO IT COULD BE A HUMAN, BUT IT COULD BE ANYTHING.


!
WELL, TOROGAI BELIEVES THAT THE LA LUNGA IS A CREATURE FROM NAYUG.

ISN'T TOROGAI THE PERSON THAT MY MOTHER SENT A MESSAGE TO...?

TOROGAI IS THE BEST SHAMAN ALIVE. SHE IS A VERY WISE WOMAN. SHE'S ALSO TANDA'S MENTOR...
YES.

BECAUSE SHE ALSO HAS YAKU BLOOD.

!

!
I HEARD THAT THE YAKU PEOPLE CAN'T READ... WHY WOULD YOU HAVE A MENTOR THAT CAN'T READ?

THINK ABOUT IT. THEY HAVE LIVED IN THIS LAND THE LONGEST... THEY KNOW THE WORLD MORE THAN ANYONE, JUST AS YOU KNOW YOUR OWN HOUSE MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE DOES.
THE YAKU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO READ, BUT THEY KNOW THE WORLD WELL.

THERE IS NO WAY TO CONTACT HER.
YES, BUT MY MENTOR GOES WHERE-EVER SHE LIKES...
TOROGAI REALLY IS OUR ONLY HOPE...

THE YAKU THESE DAYS HAVE MIXED BLOOD WITH THE YOGO, THE KANBAL... EVERYONE. THEY'RE NO DIFFERENT THAN ANYONE ELSE THESE DAYS. I'M NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OUR CHANCES...
IS THERE ANOTHER YAKU WHO KNOWS MORE ABOUT THE NYUNGA RO IM?

THERE HAS TO BE A DESCENDANT! LET'S START INVESTIGATING TOMORROW!
THEN OUR ONLY CHANCE WOULD BE TO LOOK FOR A DESCENDANT OF YOUR GRANDFATHER'S FRIEND. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THAT'S RIGHT!

BUT I REALLY BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A WAY TO SAVE YOU.
I KNOW IT'S SCARY...
PAT

.....

AND I'M NOT JUST SAYING THAT TO EASE YOUR MIND.

I AM SURE THERE WERE PEOPLE THAT HAVE BEEN SAVED, WE JUST HAVEN'T HEARD OF IT YET.
IF THE NYUNGA RO IM IS BORN FROM AN EGG, THAT MEANS IT WOULD HAVE DESCENDANTS. OTHERWISE, IF IT WERE JUST DESTROYED WITH YOU AND NEVER BORN, THE WORLD WOULD HAVE DEVOLVED TO RUIN.

THERE IS NO REASON WHY THE YAKU WOULD SO FERVENTLY PROTECT THE CHILD WHO HOSTS THE NYUNGA RO IM IF HE WAS JUST GOING TO DIE AT THE END.
AND ALSO...

AND I CAN'T TELL HIM THAT POSSIBILITY. CHAGUM IS ALREADY SCARED AS IT IS...
BUT THEY MAY HAVE ALSO SEEN THE CHILD AS A SACRIFICE AND LET HIM DIE...

IF THE HOST DIES, THE EGG IS NO LONGER PROTECTED.
THAT'S WHAT TOROGAI SAID IN THE MESSAGE SHE SENT TO MY MOTHER.

THAT'S RIGHT! SHE DID SAY THAT.
WAIT, I FORGOT ABOUT THAT...
RIGHT ...
TANDA!!
WE HAVE TO FIND TOROGAI!!